

Message Text

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47

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 INSE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 SSO-00 PRS-01

SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 NSCE-00 /069 W

----- 008301

O R 071213Z SEP 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6132

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE NIACT

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

CONFIDENTIAL SINGAPORE 4190

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SN

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: BOAT CASE: W.A. MATHER

SUMMARY: EMBOFF INTERVIEWED 33 REFUGEES ABOARD "W.A. MATHER" ON SEPT 7. TWO OF THE FOUR FAMILIES ARE CATEGORY I EPP. OTHER TWO ARE CAT IV. CAPTAIN OF "MATHER", WHICH IS OWNED BY CANADA PACIFIC (BERMUDA) AND REGISTERED IN BERMUDA, IS QUITE VEHEMENT ABOUT THE SAFETY AND DANGER OF ALLOWING UNTRAINED PERSONNEL ABOARD A PRODUCT TANKER. SHIP, WHICH ARRIVED SEPT 5, WAS INTERVIEWED BY UNHCR SINGAPORE OFFICER MANAGER KWOK ON SEPT 6, IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO DEPART SEPT 9 FOR KOBE, JAPAN. SHIP ENTERED SINGAPORE ON REGULAR SCHEDULING, NOT DIVERSION, AND IS PRESENTLY IN HARBOR LIMITS.

1. BIO DATA AS FOLLOWS:

CASE A BIO CAT I VIETNAMESE REFUGEE

LEE HUY DINH, FAMILY OF 12

1. LEE HUY DINH

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A. CATHOLIC

B. MAY 1937, HUNG NGHIA, NAM DINH
C. HIGH SCHOOL, NAM DINH
D. MIDDLEMAN MERCHANT AND ELECTRICIAN
E. VIETNAMESE ONLY
F. BROTHERS LE VAN RANG, EX LT. COL. NAVY, RVN, AND LE VAN HUNG,
EX CAPTAIN, NAVY, RVN, BOTH IN CALIFORNIA, NO EXACT ADDRESS
G. NONE
2. LE THI TRA, WIFE
A. CATHOLIC
B. OCTOBER 11, 1937, NVN
C. PRIMARY SCHOOL
D. HOUSEWIFE
E. VN ONLY
F. NONE
G. NONE
3.. LE THI VUONG, SISTER
A. CATHOLIC
B. MAY 15, 1949, NAM DINH, NVN
C. DEGREE'S PEDAGOGIE, BAN ME THUOT SCHOOL, HOME STUDY COURSES
FROM UNIVERSITY OF SAIGON FACULTIES OF LAW AND LETTERS
D. TEACHER, BAN ME THUOT AND NHA TRANG
E. VN, FAIR ENGLISH
F. AS PER D
G. NONE
4. LE KUM YEN, DAUGHTER
A. DITTO
B. AGE 21, NAM DINH
C. UNIVERSITY STUDENT, ENGLISH
D. NONE
E. VN, POOR ENGLISH
F. NONE
G. NONE
5. LE VAN UY, SONE
A,D,F,G SAME AS ABOVE AND FOR SUCCEEDING CHILDREN
B. JUNE 15, 1957
C. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE
E. VN ONLY
6. LE THI LIEU, DAUGHTER
B. 17
C. STUDENTE. VN ONLY
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7. LE THUONG CHIEU, SON, AGE 14
8. LE HOAI HUONG, DAUGHTER, AGE 11
9. LE THA CHAU, SON, AGE 7
10. LE MONG DUNG, DAUGHTER, AGE 6
11. LE XUAN SOAN, SON, AGE 4
12. LE HUY HOANG, SON, AGE 2
CASE B BIO CAT I VIETNAMESE REFUGEE
NGO VAN QUY, FAMILY OF SEVEN (7)

1. NGO VAN QUY

A. BUDDHIST

B. OCTOBER 10, 1937, NVN

C. SECONDARY SCHOOL

MILITARY MEDICAL INSTITUTE, SAIGON, TWO 6 MONTH TRAINING COURSES.

D. CHIEF MEDIC FOR BTTN 63, ARVN CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

E. VN LITTLE ENGLISH AND FRENCH

F. BROTH-IN-LAW: NGUYEN VAN TOAN, LT, NAVY, RVN, IN USA

G. NONE

2. NGUYEN THI HUE, WIFE

A. DITTO

B. APRIL 12, 1942, VN

C. NIL

D. HOUSEWIFE

E. VN

F. BROTHER (AS ABOVE)

G. NONE

3. NGO THI DUNG, DAUGHTER, AGE 10

4. NGO VAN CHUONG, SON, AGE 8

5. NGO VAN VU SON, AGE 6

6. NGO VAN BINH, SON, AGE 4

7. NGO VAN PHONG, SON, AGE 2

CASE C CAT IV VIETNAMESE REFUGEE

LE THANH TRONG, FAMILY OF EIGHT (8)

CASE D CAT IV VIETNAMESE REFUGEE

NGUYEN VAN SU, FAMILY OF SIX (6)

2. BIO DATE OF CASES C AND D WILL FOLLOW SEPTEL.

COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST CLEAR CASE OF FIRST PORT OF CALL ASYLUM TO REACH SINGAPORE. TANKER WAS SCHEDULED TO CALL HERE. SHIP WITH SURVIVORS IS NOW CLEARLY WITHIN SINGAPOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS.
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EXTREME HAZARD OF FORCING SHIP TO CARRY PASSENGERS STRESSED BY CAPTAIN. THE CAPTAIN, EITHER IN SINGAPORE IF HIS OWNERS OKAY IT, OR UPON FIRST LANDING OUTSIDE, INTENDS TO GO TO PRESS WITH CONDEMPTION OF GOS ATTITUDE. AS HE PUTS IT, "I WOULDN'T PICK UP A SINGAPOREAN SAILOR ANY MORE IF THIS IS THEIR HUMANITARIAN OUTLOOK."

AS FOLLOW-UP TO AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM, EMBASSY REQUESTS PERMISSION TO REITERATE FIRST PORT OF CALL PRINCIPLE ON A HIGH LEVEL.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

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